

and in no way offend public taste and sensivity.

- (iv) The Committee would examine and recommend on the requirement for setting up of tourist information booths as well as kiosks for guiding travelling public regarding availability of other modes of transport, city maps etc.
- (v) The Committee would examine and recommend regarding sale of books and publications depending on the regional and territorial requirements as also sale of literature for permitting themes of national integration, social justice, communal harmony, rural development etc. The Committee would also examine the kind of music to be played in trains at Railway Stations as also the messages given through the visual media like CCTVs at Stations etc.

#### Cellular Telephone Instruments

4111. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major companies are selling cellular telephone instruments in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of such instruments in the country as on November 1, 1996;

(c) the prices of the same instruments of the respective companies in London, New York, Tokyo and Singapore alongwith the comparison of prices with the instruments available in India;

(d) the reasons for allowing such expensive instruments to be sold at such higher prices; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Remuneration of Artists, Tirupathi

4112. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Radio Tirupathi has not paid remuneration to artists since May, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Halt of Manmad Mumbai/Panchvati Express Train at Igatpuri Railway Station

4113. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Manmad-Mumbai Panchavati Express Train does not halt at Igatpuri railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide halt to the said train at Igatpuri Railway Station for the benefit of vast industrial area;

(c) if so, the time by which the halt is likely to be provided;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to fully/partially convert the train into an airconditioned train; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 1401/1402 Manmad-Mumbai Panchvati Express is already stopping at Igatpuri in both the directions.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) and (f). At present, there is no proposal to convert 1401/1402 Panchvati Express into a fully air-conditioned train. However, an air-conditioned Chair car is available in 1401/1402 Panchvati Express.

[English]

#### Setting up of A.C.D.C. Locomotive in Panchavati Express

4114. SHRI RAJARAM P. GODASE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Government propose to setup an A.C.D.C. locomotive in the Panchavati Express running between Nasik and Mumai;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 5 Nos AC/DC locomotives are available in Central Railway and are undergoing services trials.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

4115. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone exchange in many villages of Saharsa and Supaul districts of Bihar are on the verge of closure due to ill-maintenance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them perfect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 21 exchanges in Saharsa District and 14 exchanges in Supaul District. All of them are electronic exchanges. These are working satisfactorily.

(b) A number of these exchanges are connected to their parent exchanges on open wire lines, which are prone to thefts and faults. It is planned to replace the open wire lines, by reliable transmission media progressively during next two years to improve the performance of Telecommunication services in the area.

#### **Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar-Tarapur Lines**

4116. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long standing demand from various organisation and Chambers of Commerce and Industries for Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar-Tarapur broad gauge railway lines;

(b) whether a number of representation have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) the details of Engineering and traffic survey conducted on the above broad gauge; and

(e) the time by which the construction work on above broad gauge lines are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Following Hon'ble MPs and others have forwarded representations in this regard :

- (i) Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP.
- (ii) Shri Sanat Mehta, MP.
- (iii) Shrimati Urmilaben Patel, MP.
- (iv) Shri Dileep Sanghani, MP.
- (v) Shri Rajendrasinh Rana, MP.
- (vi) Shri Gordhanbhai Javia, MP.
- (vii) Shri Narottambhai Patel, MLA/Gujarat.
- (viii) Shri Jindra Upadyay, Member/State Parliamentary Board/Gujarat
- (ix) Federation of Kutch Saurashtra Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- (x) Amreli Chambers of Commerce.

(d) and (e). The work of gauge conversion between Surendranagar and Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav has already been included

in the supplementary Budget 1996-97 and would be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

There is, however, no proposal for construction of a new line from Bhavnagar to Tarapore at present

[Translation]

#### **Stoppage of Express Trains at Bina Junction**

4117. SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage to Goa Express, Kerala Express, Pushpak Express and Superfast Shatabdi Express at Bina Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the development of Bina Junction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible.

(d) Development of stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by traffic needs. Amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled has already been provided at Bina station. Work of extension of platforms 3/4 has been taken up at Bina station.

[English]

#### **Indian News Casters Association**

4118. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian News Casters Association has been agitating to Press for their demands;

(b) if so, the details of the demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Small Mine Owners**

4119. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of small mine owners;